

Serial No.: 09/729,924  
Atty. Docket No.: P66152US0

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A connection system for the connection of ~~in particular~~ two or more sterile systems, comprising at least a male connecting element ~~(2)~~ forming a closed end of a sterile, fluid-containing system and at least a female connecting element ~~(1)~~ forming the closed end of a second sterile, fluid-containing system which can be aseptically connected to one another, ~~characterized in that both~~ each of said connecting elements ~~(1, 2)~~ ~~each have~~ having a predetermined breaking point, said breaking points ~~(7, 8)~~ being arranged one above the other when the two connecting elements ~~(1, 2)~~ are assembled so that they form a common predetermined breaking point and can be broken off together, with the predetermined breaking point being located inside the fluid-containing system.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The connection system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the two connecting elements ~~(1, 2)~~ can be connected to each other in a positively locking manner.

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3. (Currently Amended) A The connection system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting elements ~~(1, 2)~~ can be connected to each other by means of a screw thread.

4. (Currently Amended) A The connection system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting elements ~~(1, 2)~~ can be connected to each other by means of a snap-in connection.

5. (Currently Amended) A The connection system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting elements ~~(1, 2)~~ can be connected to each other by means of an adhesive connection.

6. (Currently Amended) A The connection system according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the adhesive connection is a quick-hardening adhesive.

7. (Currently Amended) A The connection system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a disinfectant is provided between ~~the~~ contacting contact surfaces ~~(9, 11)~~ of the connecting elements ~~(1, 2)~~.

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8. (Currently Amended) A The connection system according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the disinfectant has bonding properties.

9. (Currently Amended) A The connection system according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the disinfectant is a quick-hardening adhesive.

10. (Currently Amended) A The connection system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein cyanoacrylate is provided for connecting the two connecting elements ~~(1, 2)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A The connection system according to claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a protective cap ~~(22)~~ the having an external contour ~~of which is~~ matched to the male connecting element.

12. (Currently Amended) A The connection system according to claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a protective cap ~~(22)~~ in the form of a male connecting element that is connectable to the female connecting element ~~(1)~~ for the protection thereof.

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13. (Withdrawn) A female connecting element (i) which forms the closed end of a fluid-containing system, for the connection with a male connecting element (2) which forms the end of a second fluid-containing system, characterized in that the female connecting element (1) has a predetermined breaking point (8).

14. (Withdrawn) A male connecting element (2) which forms the closed end of a fluid-containing system, for the connection with a female connecting element (1) which forms the end of a fluid-containing system, characterized in that the male connecting element (2) has a predetermined breaking point (7).

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a~~ The connection system according to claim 1, further including at least two bags and a tube system for the sterile transfer of fluid within a bag system, ~~comprising at least two bags and a tube system.~~

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a~~ The connection system according to claim 15 for the sterile transfer of biological or medical fluids in a bag system having at least two bags and a tube system.

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17. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a~~ The connection system according to claim 15 in a sterile blood bag system for the sterile transfer of blood or blood components.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a~~ The connection system according to claim 15 in a bag and tube system having at least one filter element for the sterile transfer of blood or blood components.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a~~ The connection system according to claim 15 in a bag system for the sterile transfer of infusion solutions or dialysis solutions.